

Remarks

The examiner has entered a restriction requirement indicating that seven independent species are present in this application. The examiner also requires that Applicants identify the claims directed to the elected species because the restriction requirement associates the species with figures and not claims. Claim 25 has been identified as a generic claim.

Applicants acknowledge that upon an allowance of a generic claim, claims directed to additional species written in dependent form or otherwise include all of the generic claim's limitations will be considered as provided by 37 C.F.R. §1.141.

Applicants respectfully note that not all of the identified species appear to be separate and distinct. For simplicity, Applicants herein note only that species 6 and 7 do not appear to be separate and distinct. (No acquiescence to the correctness of the breakdown of species 1 through 5 should be inferred herein.)

Species 6 and 7 are, in Applicants' view, the same invention. Species 6 is directed to support and link sections that are trapezoidal or rhomboidal in shape. (Page 12, para. 56.) Species 7, according to the examiner, is depicted in Fig. 13, and is described at page 12, paragraph 57 as having "trapezoidal link sections 8 and support sections are produced." Thus, while not attempting to traverse the entire restriction requirement, Applicants respectfully submit that Species 6 and 7 (Figs. 12 and 13, respectfully, as well as Fig. 14) are properly considered as a single invention because they both are directed to trapezoidal link and support sections. Claims 25, 5, 13, 14 are directed to these link and support shapes.

Therefore, Applicants elect Species 6 and 7, which are the embodiments shown in Figs. 12, 13, and 14. Claims 25, 5, 13, and 14 are directed to the Species 6 and 7, Figs. 12, 13, and 14 embodiments.

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Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants elect Species 6 directed to Figs. 12, 13, and 14, and claims 25 (generic), 5, 13, and 14 for review in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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